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Chairman

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KYODAN OFFICIAL HISTORY PUBLISHED

The long-awaited official history of The United Church of Christ has come from the presses of the United Church of Christ Board of Publications.

The 386-page book entitled Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan Shi (The History of the United Church of Christ in Japan), although published over the name of the history editorial committee, is largely the work of Dr. Shogo Yamaya, chairman of the committee.

The history, whose publication was planned as a part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the United Church, begins with the first Protestant work in Japan in the early Meiji era. The central section deals in considerable detail with the formation of the United Church in 1941 and with the activities during World War II, followed by a discussion of the post-war period.

Publication of the History is timely inasmuch as the current controversy over the Confession of War Responsibility issued over the name of Moderator Masahisa Suzuki in March has focused wide spread attention on specific events in the early days of the church's formation and its activities under the militaristic government.

Mr. Yamaya, 78, is pastor of the Toshimagaoka Church. A graduate of the law department of Tokyo University, he was ordained in 1945 and has taught at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and at Aoyama Gakuin University. He is the author of several books on the Bible.

A second history to appear on the current scene is that of Dr. Ken Ishiwara, whose Nihon Kirisutokyo Shi Ron (The History of Christianity in Japan) has just been published by Protestant Publishing Company. Dr. Ishiwara, a Kyodan layman, is a former president of Tokyo Women's College and still honorary president. He has taught at Aoyama Gakuin University and International Christian University.

TOKYO JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

Naoto Naganuma, who has been chairman of the board of trustees of the Tokyo School of the Japanese Language since its founding in 1948, resigned as chairman effective June 7, 1967, although he will continue to serve on the board of trustees.

Naganuma is perhaps best known for the series of language books which bear his name, beginning with the "Red Book" -- a primer. This series has been of invaluable assistance to students of the Japanese language. The 9-book series, originally prepared in 1932, has undergone numerous revisions and reprintings, under Mr. Naganuma's direction.

The Tokyo language school began in 1948 with twelve students attending classes in a rented building, but in 1952 the school was established at its present location in Shibuya and in 1964 completed an additional building with library and language laboratory facilities in addition to classrooms. Enrollment at the language school averages 300 students a year, representing some 25 different countries. It is estimated that more than 1200 students have "graduated" from the language school, including many missionaries, foreign students, housewives, and business personnel.

Mr. Naganuma began teaching Japanese to foreigners in 1921. He served as principal of the Tokyo School until 1964. He has also often been present, fude (brush) in hand, at calligraphy classes that the school offers in its supplementary curriculum on Japanese culture.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES TO MEET IN NAGOYA

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries in Japan will meet at Inuyama Youth Hostel, near Nagoya, on July 18-20. Conference participants will consider the theme, "Here We Stand: in the Church, in Japan, in the 20th Century".

Featured speakers at the FCMJ conference are Dr. John Howes, of British Columbia University and Dr. Roland Bainton, of Yale Divinity School. Dr. Howes will deliver three lectures on the general subject, "The Japanese Christian--- His Church, His Tradition, and The Missionary." Dr. Bainton will give a series of lectures on historical themes, "The Church and Culture", "The Church and Empire", and the "Strategy of Reform and Meditation."

Dr. Harvey Smit is preacher to the convocation. Dr. Clark Offner is the FCM president.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FORMS URBAN-INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

The first meeting of a new NCCJ-sponsored Urban-Industrial Evangelism Commission was held at the Christian Center, Tokyo, on June 6. The Commission is charged with investigation of possibilities for joint action by NCCJ member churches in urban and industrial mission.

Appointed to the directorship of the new organ is the Rev. Stanley Manierre, the associate general secretary of the National Christian Council. The Rev. Atsumi Tasaka (Japan Evangelical Church) is the chairman, and the Rev. Masahiro Tomura (Kyodan) is the secretary. Other members are drawn from Episcopal, Korean Christian and Baptist Union Churches, and from the Christian Medical Association, YMCA, YWCA and Japan Christian Academy.

Asked to comment upon the aims of the new NCCJ body, Mr. Manierre said, "The hope of the Commission is to take an active role in helping churches to realize the realities of life in the city--the life of today and of the future for most of mankind. We want to encourage our member organizations to understand the

situation in which they must make their witness. Realizing our own inadequacies, we plan to invite laymen who are engaged in various sectors of life in the cities to join in a research committee aimed at providing information to the churches."

The Commission approved plans for the Annual NCCJ sponsored consultation to be held from January 29-31, 1967 in Nagoya. The Theme will be : "Technology, Man and Church".

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER KYODAN CONFSSIONAL STATEMENT

Argument continued last month over the controversial "confession" of war guilt issued by the Kyodan just before Easter. In the latest move by opponents of the statement, pastors called at Kyodan headquarters on June 19 to deliver a letter protesting the issuance of the confession.

Earlier, a "Social gathering on problems of the Kyodan" was held at Kyodan Yodobashi Church, Tokyo, on May 5. Individuals in attendance at the meeting focused their fire on the procedures by which the statment was issued. In essence, the point at issue is the old question of the right of a committee to speak for the mass.

Observers note that individuals protesting the confessional statement appear to belong to the generation that entered the Church prior to the outbreak of the war.

CRUSADE BUDGET UP

The budget for the forthcoming Billy Graham Tokyo Crusade will be increased from 35 million Yen to 50 million, according to the Tokyo magazine, Christ Weekly.

The choir for the autumn event met in Tokyo on June 10 to organize.

SUMMER MEETINGS SLATED

Following is a partial list of noteworthy meetings to be held in the course of the summer.

July 3-4: Targung on Minority groups in Japan at the Oiso Academy House.

" 4-6: Kyodan meets to study church structure.

" 17-21: Pastors Retreat on "Church and the Present Age"

" 18-20: Fellowship of Christian Missionaries Annual Conference.

" 26-29: High school students meet on "Ye Are The Salt of the Earth".

August 21-26: "The place of Music in Evangelism"

" 28-30: "The Theory and Practice of Mass Communication in the Kyodan".

LUTHERAN CHIEF REPORTS ON AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING MEET

The Rev. Chitose Kishi, president of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, returned from a broadcasting conference in Varden, Australia, to tell how Lutherans take an active role in Christian radio and film ministries in Africa and elsewhere. Dr. Kishi stressed the importance of Lutheran participation in the work in Japan of AVACO (Audio Visual Aid Committee).

Outlining activities of the conference (a meeting of the Evangelism Committee of the Lutheran World Federation), Dr. Kishi sketched the spirited discussion carried on over the existence of the Christian God in the belief and worship of other religions. The conference focused on the Christian approach to world religions.

CORRECTION TO JCAN, MAY 15

An Apology by the English-language editor

In our May 15 issue we ran a short item on the dissolution of the Japan Bible Christian Council. Paragraph two of the story included the following sentence: "The name of the Bible Council was employed by a controversial American evangelist operating in Japan, the Rev. Kenny Joseph, to gain space in Japanese newspapers for denunciation of the NCCJ, NCCC-USA, and other ecumenical groups."

Since the appearance of the article JCAN has received a protest from Mr. Joseph. Upon receiving it, we re-read the sentence concerning him. It seems clear that the phrase, "was employed", could be taken to mean that Mr. Joseph used the Council for his own ends, acting unilaterally and without consulting the balance of the Council's membership.

Frankly speaking, JCAN's English-language editor cannot imagine where his head was when the offending sentence was written. It is a truism that one cannot know the intention of another person---a maxim that makes our sentence improper at the start. But beyond that, an examination of the controversial Mr. Joseph's published utterances reveals him to be a man of single-minded and almost implacable fidelity to the understanding of mission that has been given to him. With that understanding we do not and cannot substantially agree. But we salute its consistency.

The English-language editor, on behalf of JCAN, offers a free and unreserved apology to Mr. Joseph, and to members of the former Japan Bible Christian Council, for a sentence that amounted to an unwarranted, though uncalculated, attack upon the integrity of a fellow Christian.

- James A. Gittings -